



BOROUGH OF LEWES.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1939 drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health given in Circular 2067. This Circular states that "the Minister considers that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939, and that they should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year. These reports may be type-written, if desired. Accordingly, this report has been typed and restricted to essentials, which procedure accounts for its brevity.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W R Dunstan.

Medical Officer of Health.



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Staff. Mr. A. L. Vigar retired from his post as Sanitary Inspector on August 31st 1939. This resignation was caused through ill-health and his retirement from the staff was received by us all with the keenest regret. His work was of so high an order as to carry its own testimonial with it and needs no encomium from me.

Mr. K. Appleton was promoted to the position of Sanitary Inspector; that of the Additional Sanitary Inspector being left vacant.

Hospital for Infectious Diseases. The new scheme whereby the Newhaven Isolation Hospital serves the three areas of the Borough of Lewes, Newhaven U.D.C. and Seaford U.D.C. came into operation on October 17th 1939. The Old Lewes Isolation Hospital (Nevill Road Hospital), which was to have been closed, was kept open as a hospital for communicable diseases owing to the influx of evacuees. I regret to say that the condition of the evacuee children was highly unsatisfactory. An account of the heavy work done at the School Clinic has been given in the School Medical Report. A cleansing centre was established at the hospital and a disinfection scheme for bedding and clothing was put into action. We found that many cases healed very slowly owing to their poor physical condition and, in consequence, particular attention was given to nutrition, with the result that not a single child failed to leave the hospital in a better condition of health than on entry. This satisfactory result was due to the constant and kindly attention given to these children by the Matron (Mrs Cowlam).

Vital Statistics. These are being preserved for the duration of the War with a view to publication later.

Infectious Disease. Total cases 48. No epidemic outbreaks.

Housing. The number of persons from clearance areas rehoused during 1939 was 254.

Sanitary Inspection. Mr. K. Appleton is now at Aldershot; his place has been taken by Mr. C. E. Lockley, who commenced his duties on June 3rd 1940. Mr. Lockley informs me that no essential or urgent matters arose during 1939 that were worthy of special notice.